

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 34 of 1880.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 21st August 1880.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhárat Shramajíví"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grámvártá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....
5	"Rajshahye Samvád"	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patriká"	Calcutta	700	9th August 1880.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	13th ditto.
8	"Bhárat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	10th ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwán Sanjivani"	Bardwán	296	10th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca	350	15th ditto.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	13th ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitaishiní"	Dacca	300	
14	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Beauleah, Rájsháhí	200	11th ditto.
15	"Howrah Hitakarí"	Bethar, Howrah	400	
16	"Mediní"	Midnapore	250	4th and 11th August 1880.
17	"Murshidábád Patriká"	Berhampore	487	13th ditto.
18	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....	13th ditto.
19	"Navavibhákar"	Calcutta	850	16th ditto.
20	"Pratikár"	Berhampore	275	13th ditto.
21	"Rangpore Dik Prakásh"	Kákiníá, Rangpore	250	12th ditto.
22	"Sádháraní"	Chinsurah	500	15th ditto.
23	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	9th ditto.
24	"Samálochak"	Ditto	1,000	
25	"Samáchár Sár"	Allahabad	350	
26	"Som Prakásh"	Calcutta	.....
27	"Sulabha Samáchár"	Ditto	4,000	14th ditto.
28	"Shárad Kaumudí"	Bhowanipore	300	
29	"Srihatta Prakásh"	Sylhet	440	9th ditto.
30	"Tripurá Vártávaha"	Commillah	.....	14th ditto.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
31	"Samáchár Sudhávarshan"	Calcutta	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
32	"Samvád Prabhákar"	Ditto	700	14th to 19th August 1880.
33	"Samvád Púrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	16th to 20th ditto.
34	"Samáchár Chandriká"	Ditto	625	11th and 16th to 21st August 1880.
35	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"	Ditto	500	16th to 20th August 1880.
36	"Prabháti"	Ditto	.....	10th to 21st ditto.
ENGLISH AND UEDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	365	14th August 1880.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Behár Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	12th ditto.
39	"Bhárat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	12th ditto.
40	"Jagat Mitra"	Ditto	157	
41	"Sár Sudhánidhi"	Ditto	200	16th ditto.
42	"Uchit Baktá"	Ditto	.....	14th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Ditto	250	13th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
44	"Tijarut-ul-Akhbár"	Ditto	.....	15th ditto.

POLITICAL.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,
August 9th, 1880.

WE extract the following observations from an article in the *Srihatta Prakash*, of the 9th August:—It is indeed easy to preach, but it is very difficult to follow

The Liberals in power.
in practice what is preached. This is seen in the action of the Liberal party. The people of India hailed with delight their accession to power, and entertained great expectations from that event. The action of the party at the present time, however, is not such as to inspire them with confidence. The Liberals, it would seem, have not yet succeeded in leaving the narrow groove in which they are wont to move. A few shortcomings of the policy which they are now following may be here referred to. Of course, it is not to be expected that everything will be done at once, but even that which could be done has not been done. The opinions of Bright, Gladstone, and others have certainly undergone a change since they were last in opposition. Then they commented severely on the extravagant expenditure incurred by the Government of India on account of canals and other public works, as well as on the army. If it was wrong to expend public money in this manner, why not stop it at once? Do they not really possess any power? The whole world knows how loudly they denounced the Vernacular Press Act. Why is it not repealed then? Lord Ripon is said to have been asked to report on its working. Now this has destroyed all confidence in these men. They have repeatedly characterized the Press Act as an inequitable measure, and yet they would wait for a report. Take, again, the case of the Afghan War, which they denounced in pamphlets and protested against till they had cried themselves hoarse over it; and now, when the time for action has come, they are perfectly inactive. It has not been yet settled whether the British troops should return from Cabul in September. The selection of Abdur Rahman for the Amirship has been extremely unwise. It may be confidently predicted that there will be no peace or order established in Afghanistan until either Yakub Khan or Mahomed Jan is installed as Amir. The Liberals have been equally inconsistent as regards their treatment of Lord Lytton. They had abused him in a manner which no gentleman would ever be guilty of in reference to another; and yet, when he was created an "Earl," they remained perfectly silent. They are also silent on the subject of Sir John Strachey's bonus of Rs. 50,000. Nor is there a word heard about the Civil Service, the Arms Act, self-government for India, or the elevation of natives to superior appointments in the public service.

SAHACHAR,
August 9th, 1880.

2. The *Sahachar*, of the 9th August, thus writes in reference to the defeat of the British army at Khoosk-i-

The disaster in Candahar.

Nakhood. The present reverse is even more

humiliating to the British Government than the annihilation of the whole British army in Afghanistan in 1842. Whatever troubles have been since occasioned to the British troops in that country have been the result of assassination, treachery, or foul play of some other kind on the part of the Afghans, but the present defeat has been the direct outcome of a lack of prudence on the part of the British Generals themselves, and of the Government of India. All the time that the fight lasted the common soldiers showed much bravery and skill, and for the result they cannot be held responsible. In dealing with the people of Afghanistan, Government, it would seem, is doomed to commit blunders. The erroneous conviction that the British troops have nothing to fear from the Afghans, not unoften blinds both Generals and the authorities at Simla to the true state of matters. This has been the case in the present instance. Ayoob Khan did not appear with the suddenness of a comet or of a lightning flash. For more than a week before the fight took place the British Generals had received

intelligence of his advance. Shortly after his leaving Herat, rumours of his approach had doubtless reached the British camp, and the Generals might have with little effort guessed that danger was near. If they had done this, the lives of some twelve hundred men would have been spared, while no stain would have been cast on the well-known bravery of England. The placing of an unbounded confidence in the people of Candahar has become, as it were, quite another disease with Government, which owes its origin to the mischievous efforts of such men as Sir Henry Rawlinson and Dr. Bellew. There is reason to apprehend that this disease is gradually spreading even among the members of the present administration. Under its influence, the error has been committed of separating Candahar from Cabul, and placing that province under an independent ruler. Shere Ali's forces deserted to the enemy. Government made a great error in supposing that the people of Candahar and the neighbourhood were well-disposed towards it. The appointment of Abdur Rahman as Amir has been an extremely injudicious step. What turn events will take in Cabul, when the intelligence of the reverse in Candahar reaches it, cannot yet be told; but it is a known fact that Abdur Rahman was dissuaded by his troops from attending the durbar held by the Government. This clearly shows that, although the Amir himself might be a true well-wisher of the British Government, still his troops are its sworn enemies, and have only consented to join his standard on condition of his opposing it. It may thus be perceived that the present settlement of Afghanistan will prove as complete a failure as the treaty of Gundamuk. Retirement from that country is the only means now left to the British Government to extricate itself from the meshes of Afghan politics.

3. Adverting to the resignation of Lord Lansdowne and the rejection
of the Irish Disturbance Bill by the House
of Lords, the same paper makes the following

The Liberals.
observations:—We fear the British are gradually becoming what the Germans and other continental nations are. The system of Government, which Lord Beaconsfield would like to see established, will by-and-bye be an accomplished fact. The English do not now love liberty as intensely as before. So long, however, as Mr. Gladstone lives, the Liberals will perhaps oppose the change. There is no unity in the Liberal ranks, so that we should not wonder if Lord Beaconsfield returned to power within one year. The conquest of Asia Minor by the Romans destroyed their old notions of liberty. The conquest of India has been the same to the English. Unless the Liberals were completely united and were prepared to undergo some amount of self-sacrifice, it is certain that what had taken place in Rome would take place in England also. That this would be a misfortune to the world is clear enough.

4. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 10th August, thus concludes an
Afghan affairs. article on the disaster in Candahar:—If

instead of following the policy laid down by

Lord Lytton, and making Abdur Rahman Amir of Cabul, the British Government had released Yakub Khan from his confinement, and reinstated him on the throne of his forefathers, they would have been spared the present disgrace and humiliation, while the enormous waste of blood and treasure which has marked the course of this war would never have taken place. As it is, our uneasiness has again manifested itself. It is probable that the people of India will be subjected to fresh taxation.

5. The same paper highly commends the remarks made by Lord
Lord Ripon's liberal views. Ripon when passing the Vaccination Bill
into law against the severity of the punishment which in the Bill had been provided for those who might infringe its

SAHACHAR,
August 9th, 1880.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
August 10th, 1880.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

provisions. The writer further expresses his pleasure at reading the observations contained in His Excellency's letter to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, on the subject of immigration into that province. These are conceived in a spirit of generous consideration for the poor.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
August 14th, 1880.

6. The *Sulabha Samáchár*, of the 14th August, confesses to a feeling of disappointment at noticing the contrast

The Liberals.
between the actions of the Liberals at the present time when they are in power, and their promises while in opposition. The cost of the Afghan war, the Press Act, the Arms Act, and many other measures of the late Administration they then denounced in the strongest possible terms, but now they are perfectly silent over these matters. The conduct of the Liberal leaders has really perplexed the people of India, and it behoves the former to give them practical proofs of their sincerity.

TRIPURA VÁRTÁVÁHA,
August 14th, 1880.

The Liberal party, and the disappointment of the people of India.

7. On the same subject, the *Tripura Vártáváha*, of the 14th August, makes similar observations.

NAVAVIBHÁKAR,
August 16th, 1880.

What the British Government has done for the people of India.

8. The *Navavibhákar*, of the 16th August, asks, in the course of an article, if the British authorities can point to any great measures which they have adopted for the benefit of India since the Government

passed into the hands of the Queen. The benefits on which Dr. Hunter in his famous lecture expatiated were almost all conferred in the days of the East India Company. The officers of the Crown have simply done their duty with energy and ability. They have enacted a multiplicity of laws and rules, and introduced the system of writing excellent official reports. But have these in any way mitigated the distress of the famine-stricken?

NAVAVIBHÁKAR.

9. The same paper thus concludes an article headed—Has the object for which the Afghan war was declared been gained? A calm consideration of all the

facts of the case will show that in this inequitable Afghan war, instead of being the gainers, the British Government has been the losers. The fear of Russia, under the influence of which this needless war was brought about, has not been dissipated but intensified by it. The North-Western frontier has been weakened, while the savage Afghans, whose punishment was one of the objects of the war, have grown more audacious than ever. In short, Government has not gained anything by the prosecution of this war.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

SÁHACHAR,
August 9th, 1880.

10. The following observations are extracted from an article in the *Sahachar* of the 9th August :—“A perusal of

The Suburban Municipality. the report of the proceedings of the last meeting of the Suburban Municipality has brought us, as it were, to our senses, and shown what power and prestige is possessed by the Commissioners. The expectations we had formed from the appointment of certain new men, particularly missionaries, as Commissioners have been fully realized. Although the latter cannot now go the length of describing sovereigns as infallible representatives of the divinity, yet, if any person who is possessed of almost unlimited power abuses it, some missionary is sure to be found who will approve of his action. That the Revd. Mr. Payne therefore has supported the Vice-Chairman of the Suburban Municipality need cause no wonder.” The action of the subservient members, the conduct of Mr. Sterndale, the destruction of the old records of the municipal office, the defeat of the motion for making an enquiry into the matter, the imperious tone adopted by Mr. Beadon when addressing the Commissioners, are all then referred to, and the rate-payers' association of the suburbs exhorted to continue their good work.

11. The same paper thus writes in an editorial paragraph:—At the suggestion of Dr. Payne, the Surgeon-General of Bengal, Sir Ashley Eden has directed that the passed students of the Calcutta Medical College should not any longer be given the prize books at the time of leaving College, which it has been the practice to grant them from a long time past. This it is which gives rise to such questions as those regarding the probable cost of the new staircase of Sir Ashley Eden's house. A new staircase was made last year. That has been pulled down this year, and a new one is being put up, and a second floor erected. How much again has been expended on the wooden house on the *Padma puker* (tank covered with lotuses) in the Belvedere? What have the public gained by these things? It would be indeed disagreeable to have to refer to such matters were it not that Sir Ashley and his favorite Surgeon-General, Dr. Payne, have claimed credit for having effected a saving of Rs. 10,000 by expelling a number of lunatics of doubtful status from the asylums.

SAHACHAR,
August 9th, 1880.

12. *Nepal Gházi*, a fictitious name, thus writes to the same paper:—

The Press Act and the Cabul War. When the days of Lord Lytton's rule were over, we felt some relief. But they have not repealed the Press Act, and ask for time to understand the measure. But what is it that they will understand? What they clearly promised they should not now hesitate to do. Whilst we sow paddy on one side of the field, the wild boars come from another and injure it. The law prohibits the possession of fire-arms by the people. But one might ask, although they may not allow the people to use such rifles as are supplied to the army, what is the harm of their using guns for sporting purposes? But who would answer this question? We are glad to hear that the new Viceroy will not any longer keep the troops in Cabul; so that matters will be soon placed on their old footing. There will be neither troops nor a Resident stationed in Cabul. The dog that was made a king at Candahar has not been able to retain his sovereignty. Not to speak of money, large numbers of men have perished in this war. Will you believe me the cost of this war will reach thirty crores of rupees. It is said the British nation will pay a portion of it. Do not believe this. The new Premier is not indeed a man of words, and will doubtless ask for a contribution; but it is certain that others will stand in his way; so that the people of this country will have to pay it all.

SAHACHAR.

13. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 10th August, directs the attention

Robberies in Burdwan. of the Inspector-General of Police to the

large number of robberies by house-breaking which have occurred in Burdwan during the last few months. It is really strange that, with such a numerically strong police force as this town maintains at an annual cost of about Rs. 10,000, robberies should continue to be committed for months together. The fact appears to be that there is almost no supervision exercised over the subordinates of the local police by the superior officers. They take it all easy, and seldom stir out at night.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.
August 10th, 1880.

The same paper remarks that Mr. Wyer has not proved a successful

Mr. Wyer. Magistrate in Burdwan. He is not possessed of much ability, and lacks firmness of pur-

pose. Neither in the Road Cess Department nor in his administration of the local municipality has he been able to do any important work. He had, while in Burdwan, great confidence in the Secretary to the Municipality—a circumstance which accounts for many of his unwise acts.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

15. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 10th August, makes the following

The Bengal Rent Bill. observations on the draft Bill published by

is no subject which is of greater importance to the people of this

BHÁRAT MIHIR,
August 10th, 1880.

country than that of the relations existing between landlords and tenants. It should be considered in a calm, independent and liberal spirit. The tenantry constitute, as it were, the very foundations of society, and there can be no progress until their condition is ameliorated. The earth has long groaned under the oppressions of the aristocracy; the right of the tenant has long been trampled under the foot of the sovereign and of those who are favored by him. But this down-trodden power of the people occasionally rises up with the strength of a lion roused from his sleep and causes revolutions; witness the annals of every civilized country, where the fact is depicted in letters of blood. The tenantry of Bengal had long groaned under oppressions before Act X of 1859 was passed. That measure brought them much relief. There could be no reasonable objection to efforts to ameliorate the condition of the tenants, constituting, as they do, the chief hope of the country; but we cannot certainly side with those who, in the eagerness of their advocacy of tenant-right, altogether deny the utility of a body of intermediate landholders, and are ready without showing them any consideration to take away all their rights for the purpose of enriching the ryots. After a careful study of the draft Bill and the report of the Rent Commission, we have come to the conclusion that, if the Bill is passed in its present form, almost all the rights of the landlords will be extinguished, though at the same time the dissatisfaction that exists among the tenants will not be removed; and that ill-feeling between the parties will go on increasing till the landlord ceases to have any sympathy for his tenant. There will be also an increase of litigation. Attempts to attain to strict accuracy very often lead to failure. The draft Bill contains many instances of such failure. Have not the Commission made the meaning of the word "ryot," already vague enough, more so by their definition? Section 11 treats of "tenure-holders" and "undertenure-holders." Considering that the possession of these titles is made to depend only on the possession of certain rights by those who bear them, it is quite unnecessary to draw a purely imaginary line between them. A person holding 99 bighas will be called a ryot, as also he who, although holding 100 bighas, finds on measurement that the land is actually of less extent. Considering that it is quite possible that landlords and tenants may, in particular instances, agree between themselves to show even one holding 100 bighas as a "ryot," the drawing of an imaginary line seems quite needless. The provisions contained in section 4 of Act VIII of 1869 are reasonable and have been retained in the Forest Bill, and there is no reason for any party to be dissatisfied with them.

BHARAT MIHIR,
August 10th, 1880.

16. The same paper dwells on the necessity of establishing savings banks in connection with the post-offices in

Agricultural savings banks.

this country for the benefit of the agriculturists.

To the improvident cultivators of Bengal, who spend all they have in a season of plenty in celebrating a marriage or any other festival, and seek the protection of the money-lenders in times of scarcity, the measure, if carried out, will be one of inestimable advantage. It is, however, necessary that the object of this institution should be clearly explained to them, and its procedure made as simple as possible.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
August 12th, 1880.

17. The *Samáchar Chandriká*, of the 12th August, contains a long

The Cantonment Magistrate of article on the doings of Major Hopkinson, Barrackpore. the Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore.

Recently he ordered a three-legged calf, the property of a showman, to be slaughtered, but was with great difficulty prevailed upon to withdraw the order. Then, again, a boy sentenced by him to receive a flogging, after having undergone the punishment, was recalled and whipped a second time for the same offence. The last case referred to is that of a respectable woman of good character who, having incurred the displeasure of some officer in Barrackpore,

was through his machinations summoned before the court, fined, and ordered to be registered as a prostitute in spite of the evidence given by many independent men of the place in her favour. She was ordered to be kept in custody, but somehow managed at night to elude the vigilance of her guard, and disappeared. The attention of Government is drawn to these proceedings of the Magistrate.

18. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 13th August, The Devipore Sub-Registry office. directs the attention of Government to the inconvenience and hardship which have been caused to the inhabitants of the Devipore thana, in the Diamond Harbour sub-division, by the new arrangement under which the work of registration of documents has been transferred to the sub-division. The writer asks that the old arrangement should be reverted to.

19. Another, writing to the same paper, asks the Director of Public Instruction to allow Mr. Paulson, the energetic and popular Principal of the Kishnaghur College, to remain at his present post. His transfer from Kishnaghur will be a sad loss to the institution.

20. A correspondent of the *Sulabha Samáchár*, of the 14th August, The Sub-Registrar of Chagdah. suggests that the Chagdah Sub-Registry office, which is now located in the dwelling-house of the Sub-Registrar at Gorpárá, should be transferred to some place near the railway station at Chagdah. There being no shop or any other house available where one can rest for a time and refresh himself, the present site is extremely inconvenient to those who have business to transact in the Registry office.

21. The *Tripurá Vártávaha*, of the 14th August, would draw Lord Ripon's attention to the importance of promoting mass education in this country. The efforts which have been hitherto made in this direction are quite inadequate to the requirements of the case. What is required is that there should be more public money spent on primary education than is done at present. It is not the object of the writer to urge on Government the desirability of extending mass education at the expense of what is known as high education. To the question whence additional funds are to be obtained for the purpose here described, he would reply by pointing out the need of effecting retrenchments in all departments of the Administration. If that should not be considered feasible, he would ask that the surplus Chowkidari Tax Fund in every district might be utilized for the purpose of extending the sphere of primary education.

22. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 15th August, Village punchayets. remarks that by the establishment of the village punchayets Government has brought into existence a new engine of oppression. The punchayet has gradually come to exercise the authority once possessed by the zemindars over the ignorant villagers who stand in great dread of it. The members has generally turn into account the authority which their official position gives them, and the receiving of illegal gratifications prevails to a large extent among these men. This state of things is due to the faulty method of selecting the punchayets. The police, with whom the task of nomination rests, selects almost anybody and everybody to fulfil the duties of a punchayet.

23. The *Sádháraní* of the 15th August, after explaining the nature of the relations which should subsist between the landlord and their tenantry, refers to the existing state of things which is extremely unsatisfactory. Although for this, in strict justice, both parties should be held responsible, yet the writer

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
August 18th, 1880.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.
SULABHA SAMACHAR,
August 14th, 1880.

TRIPURA VARTAVAH
August 14th, 1880.

DACCA PRAKASH,
August 15th, 1880.

SADHARANI,
August 15th, 1880.

The Report of the Rent Law Commission.

is disposed to throw the whole blame on the shoulders of the landlord as being the stronger, the wealthier, and the more intelligent of the two classes. Government has for the last ten years laboured to settle the disputes by legislation. The Editor does not believe the task to be possible. The question whether the draft Bill published by the Rent Commission will, if passed, lead to any good results, is reserved for future discussion.

SADHARANI.
August 15th, 1880.

24. The same paper refers to the extensive litigation in which Settlement proceedings in Midnapore. Government is now engaged with the tenantry of certain khas mehals in Midnapore, and which has been occasioned by the undue enhancement of their rents at the recent settlements. There is wide spread discontent among the tenantry of these mehals. Government is asked to say if this is the example of good management of an estate, which it would like to see followed by the zemindars.

SADHARANI.

25. The same paper observes, in reference to the unsatisfactory manner in which the Village Chowkidari Act is worked in the mofussil, that this is in a great measure due to the want of supervision on the part of the District Magistrate and other superior officers. The writer suggests that persons, who carry on business in any village, but do not permanently reside in it, should be declared eligible to appointment to the punchayet, which might be thus strengthened by the presence of men possessing no local bias. He further suggests that the punchayets should have the power given them to order the transfer of chowkidars of one beat to another, and to fine the chowkidars if they are proved to have done anything wrong. Periodical inspections, at least twice a year of a punchayet's work by Magistrate, Deputy Magistrate, or any other departmental head, would prove highly beneficial.

SADHARANI.

26. The same paper refers to the inconvenience passengers are subjected to while crossing the river between Serampore and Barrackpore in the ferry-boats. There is no landing-stage on the Barrackpore side, and they have to wade through mud before the road is reached; and yet the toll has been raised. The attention of the Sub-Divisional Officer of Serampore is drawn to the matter.

UCHIT BAKTA,
August 14th, 1880.

27. We have this week received a new Hindi weekly paper entitled the *Uchit Baktá*, which is published at Calcutta.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 21st August 1880.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,
Bengali Translator.